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Notes

[Contributions in the form of notes or discussions should be sent to John A. Scott, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.]

A MODERN ILLUSTRATION OF CIC. IN CAT. I

Several inquiries have recently been addressed to the Classical Library of the University of Chicago regarding a modern painting of which photographs or other reproductions have apparently found their way into textbooks or to the walls of schoolrooms. An answer here may satisfy former inquiries and forestall others.

The composition represents the famous arraignment of Catiline by Cicero in the senate house, here depicted as a hall with three ranges of stalls in concentric arcs rising successively above a semicircular space (like the orchestra of certain ancient theaters), and facing the (unseen) platform occupied by the presiding officers. At the left, in the center of the quasi-orchestra, stands Cicero with arms extended in passionate gesture, while Catiline, moodily looking downward, his right hand propped upon his knee and his left covered by his toga, is seated in a stall at the right front, in the second row, while to right and left and before him the stalls are empty, the other senators having crowded together away from his vicinity.

The original painting is one of a series on historical subjects that adorns the Hall of the (Italian) Senate in Rome. It was completed in 1888, the artist being Cesare Maccari. The scenes represented are of famous moments in the ancient history of the Roman Senate—the blind and infirm Appius Claudius at the reception of the messenger from Pyrrhus, Regulus starting on his return to prison and death at Carthage, Catiline listening to Cicero's invective, Curius Dentatus rejecting the gifts of the Samnites, and so on. Above the paintings run in great letters certain mottoes, of which one, part of it appearing over the Catiline scene, is quoted from Machiavelli, "Nessuna cattiva sorte li fece mai diventare abietti e nessuna buona fortuna li fece mai essere insolenti," that is, "No untoward issue ever made them downcast, and no happy fortune ever prompted them to arrogance."

Miss Little, the assistant librarian in charge of the Classical Library, called my attention to the fact that this series of paintings is described and in part pictured by Professor A. Venturi in the *Archivio Storico dell' Arte*, I (1888), 439 ff.

E. T. M.